However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors *viz.,* reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vesels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

At present, OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day to day basis and corrective action is being taken whenever required.

No, Sir.

Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields

3827. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether the Power Ministry has demanded for nearly half the quantity of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields for producing more power to meet countrywide power shortage;

if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

what are the barriers for accepting power Ministry's legitimate demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The demand for natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, priority is being given to supply of natural gas to power plants, including from PMT fields. The power plants located along Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur/ex-Hazira (HVJ/ex-Hazira) are being supplied a total quantity of 2.25 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) natural gas from PMT fields at Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price. Further, 1.5 mmscmd is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL). 0.90 mmscmd would be supplied to Torrent Power Limited. So total supply to power sector from PMT fields would be 4.65 mmscmd.

LPG connections for women under BPL

3828. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU RAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government has formulated any policy regarding domestic LPG connections to the women under below poverty line in the country with a view to reduce dependence on forest for firewood and improve their helath status;

if so, the details thereof;

if not, the reasons therefor; and

the reaction of Government thereto?